

WILLIAM WICKHAM.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 51.]

FEBRUARY 29, 1840.

Mr. CURTIS, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the petition of William Wickham, of the town of Sodus, in the State of New York, respectfully report :

It satisfactorily appears to the committee that, in the year 1824, John M. Canfield, on behalf of the United States, bargained with the said William Wickham for the purchase of about three acres and one quarter of land, lying along the bank of Lake Ontario, in the town of Sodus, as a site for a light-house for the Big Sodus bay: that at the time of making the said contract, it was not the intention of either of the parties that the deed to be executed in pursuance thereof should convey to the United States, or deprive the said Wickham of, the rights of fishery which he then owned in the waters adjacent to the said land, but the same were by the contract expressly reserved to the said Wickham. The said deed, however, was inadvertently so drawn as, by legal construction, to embrace and convey the said rights of fishery to the United States.

The committee are therefore of the opinion that justice and good faith require the restoration of the said fishery and its appurtenances to the said Wickham, agreeably to the prayer of his petition; and they ask leave to report a bill for this purpose.

Blair & Rives, printers.

WILLIAM WICKHAM.

[To accompany H. R. No. 32.]

FEBRUARY 23, 1840.

Mr. Curtis, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the petition of William Wickham, of the town of Sedus, in the State of New York, respectfully report:

It satisfactorily appears to the committee that in the year 1834 John M. Canfield, on behalf of the United States, purchased with the said William Wickham for the purchase of about three acres and one quarter of land, lying along the bank of Lake Ontario, in the town of Sedus, as a site for a light-house for the Big Sedus bay; that at the time of making the said contract it was not the intention of either of the parties that the deed to be executed in pursuance thereof should convey to the United States, or deprive the said Wickham of the rights of fishery which he then owned in the waters adjacent to the said land, but the same were by the contract expressly reserved to the said Wickham. The said deed, however, was inadvertently so drawn as, by legal construction, to embrace and convey the said rights of fishery to the United States.

The committee are therefore of the opinion that justice and good faith require the restoration of the said fishery and its appurtenances to the said Wickham, agreeably to the prayer of his petition; and they ask leave to report a bill for this purpose.

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